

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-14, 17-28, 30, and 32 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 14, 17-22, 24-28, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,030) in view of Sakurai (U.S. Patent No. 5,924,802) and Matsumoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,611).

Claims 13 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of Sakurai, Matsumoto, and Minamizawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,074).

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has variously applied Kaneko, Sakurai, Matsumoto, and Minamizawa in rejecting each of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Office Action contends that Sakurai discloses a device driver for a scanner. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, although Sakurai may state the word “scanner”, the function of the “scanner” is not disclosed. The Applicant notes that the word “scanner” can mean a number of things. There is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion that the “scanner” of Sakurai is at all like the “reader” of the present invention.

Further, the Applicant observes that Sakurai fails to discuss how a printer functions when the “scanner” is connected to the printer as an option unit 15. For instance, it is not disclosed, taught, or suggested that the printer stops functioning when the “scanner” is connected. On the contrary, Fig. 5 indicates that the printer keeps functioning after connection of the “scanner”.

Moreover, the Applicant observes that Sakurai fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a configuration for outputting to the host computer 100 a signal obtained by the "scanner", although a control signal from a controller 8 is sent to I/F interface 1 via an I/F controller 2.

The Applicant also notes that Sakurai fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the changing of any drivers other than printer drivers.

The Applicant believes it clear that printer function and reader function are quite different functions, and that those skilled in the art would not try to drive a reader with a printer driver.

As Sakurai indicates only changeover between printer drivers (as repeatedly described, for instance, at column 6 lines 59-67, at column 8 lines 44-55, and in Fig. 5), if the scanner (here, in term of reader) is attached as an option unit 15 of the printer, it would be determined in step S103 in Fig. 5 that the printer driver does not support the scanner option, and in step S104 that the printer driver corresponding to the scanner does not exist. If a contrary determination was made in steps S103 and S104, the scanner in Sakurai would then indicate something relating to the printing function, not a reader, because the scanner can be driven by a printer driver.

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant believes it clear that Sakurai fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest that the print driver is changed to a reader driver when the scanner is connected.

Turning to Matsumoto, The Applicant notes that Matsumoto discusses multi-service facsimile apparatus 50 (Fig. 1), and the CPU 101 is included in the facsimile apparatus 50. Scan control, print control, facsimile transmission control, and facsimile reception control are performed in accordance with a program executed by the CPU 101 (column 12 lines 1-30).

Matsumoto indicates that programs executed by the CPU 101 may be installed on a personal computer, and the application is executed for realizing the facsimile function using a modem, a scanner, and a printer connected to the personal computer (column 16 lines 23-39).

In other words, the application is executed first, thereby the facsimile function is realized. In contrast, in the present invention an option is selected or installed first, then the application corresponding to the option is launched.

Turning to Kaneko, the Applicant observes that, as pointed out by the Examiner, Kaneko fails, for instance, to disclose, teach, or suggest a signaling unit.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest the launching means of the present invention.

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 5, 7-14, 17-28, 30, and 32 are in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

IV. Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500,

Order No. 1232-4465. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Furthermore, in the event that an additional extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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